

W H I T E C U B E

Press Release

Salvatore Emblema
28 May – 5 July 2025
White Cube Hong Kong

Press Preview and Exhibition Tour with Emanuele Leone Emblema (Director of Museo Emblema and grandson of the artist)

Tuesday 27 May 2025, 5–6pm
Followed by Champagne Reception, 6–8pm

White Cube Hong Kong is pleased to present a solo exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Italian artist Salvatore Emblema (1929–2006). Marking the first ever presentation of the artist's works in Asia, the exhibition follows a solo show at White Cube Paris in 2024.

Spanning a 30-year period of works made between the 1960s and 1990s, the Hong Kong exhibition includes Emblema's signature paintings made with raw pigments on jute canvas, as well as *Untitled / Ricerca sul paesaggio* (1972), a suspended sculpture comprising a metal net hung across the gallery's walls.

Born in 1929 in Terzigno, Naples, Emblema's practice, with its singular focus on the qualities of light, space and transparency, diverged from that of his contemporaries in Italy's post-war avant-garde. Inspired by the landscape of his upbringing – a volcanic red zone on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius – Emblema worked predominantly with natural materials, utilising soils, stones and other agricultural substances to extract his pigments.

His artistic approach was further shaped by encounters with Jean Dubuffet's earth and gravel compositions in the early 1950s, as well as his first visit to New York in 1957. It was here that Emblema became acquainted with the Abstract Expressionist movement, drawing particular inspiration from the colour-field paintings of Mark Rothko.

Working with the coarse material quality of raw jute and sackcloth, Emblema's compositions explore the interplay between space, colour, texture and light. Harnessing the semi-transparency afforded by the structural weave of jute, he emphasises the journey of light as it penetrates the gauze – an effect further realised through the use of pigment, from dense impasto to stained application.

Emblema's work is held in public collections around the world, including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois; Museum Ludwig, Koblenz, Germany; and the Uffizi Galleries, Florence, Italy. Recent exhibitions include a major solo presentation at Museum Haus Konstruktiv in Zürich, Switzerland, in 2023.

WHITE CUBE

The exhibition at White Cube Hong Kong is open from 28 May until 5 July 2025. The artist's studio is preserved in Naples as Museo Emblema, a house-museum open to the public, displaying works from across his career.

For additional press information, interviews or images please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Salvatore Emblema (1929–2006) was born in Terzigno, Italy, where he lived and worked throughout his life. Selected solo exhibitions include Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, Switzerland (2023); Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte, Naples, Italy (2022); Museo Madre, Naples, Italy (2016); Italian Cultural Institute, New York (2013); Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2005), touring to Museo de la Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público, Mexico City (2005); Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany (1990); Palazzo Reale, Naples, Italy (1985); Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands (1982); and Galleria San Marco, Rome (1965; 1962; 1954). Selected group exhibitions include Museo Madre, Naples, Italy (2021); Les Tanneries – Centre d'art Contemporain, Amilly, France (2016); Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Illinois (2011); Museo Novecento Napoletano, Naples, Italy (2010); Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy (2009); 53rd Venice Biennale, Italy (2009); Kunsthaus, Munich, Germany (2002); Rabalderhaus Schwaz, Austria (1997); Galleria Borghese, Rome (1985); 40th Venice Biennale, Italy (1982); Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy (1981); and 39th Venice Biennale, Italy (1980).
- His work is held in international public collections including Castel Sant'Elmo, Museo Novecento Napoletano, Naples, Italy; Fondazione Macte, Termoli, Italy; Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany; Museo Madre, Naples, Italy; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Illinois; Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy; and Musei Vaticani, Vatican City, Rome.
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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